

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A PLANNING AND GENERAL MEETING

Thursday February 2nd 2017 at The Castle Inn, Hurst.

Kathy welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased with the amount of members attending.

Present: Kathy Tuggey (Chair), Suzy Watt, Frank and Sheila Whittaker, Keith and Julie Attfield, John and Jo Penney, Ken and Penny Curry, Howard and Janet Larkin, Ted and Betty Smith, Eric and Sue Rockall, Edwin and Margaret Jarvis, Martin Newman, David Howarth, Annette Drake, Naomi Bassett, Pippa Boyd.

Apologies: Mac and Barbara Stephenson, Gavin and Sue Verdin, Lou Robinson, Ann Newman, John and Ann-Marie Vimpany, Heather Howarth, David Bassett.

Matters Arising from the Wash Up and General Meeting of September 15th 2016:

Children`s Prize Money: Management of children`s prize money had proven increasingly difficult and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next General Meeting in April.

Scarecrow Class: Kathy suggested that due to the popularity of this new class, for 2017 we should split this into two sections, adult`s and junior with rosettes awarded in each section and the scarecrow cup for the overall winner. This was agreed and Kathy will work up criteria for these sections which will go on the website. Kathy will contact Neil Maybury (last year`s winner) to ask if he is prepared to judge this year`s competition, which if he agrees will mean he will not be eligible to enter this year (as happens with the Apple Flan judging).

President`s Cup: To date this trophy was awarded for an entry at the mini-show however it was agreed it will now be moved to the main show. It will be judged by the President and the criteria for judging will be worked on by Suzy and Kathy.

Feedback from the Committee Meeting of January 12th 2017: Kathy explained the purpose of this meeting was to follow through on the action agreed at the General Meeting of September 15th regarding which good cause should receive the £500 donation agreed at that meeting. There were five nominations put forward by members and after discussion amongst the committee three were shortlisted to be voted on by members at the General Meeting of February 2nd 2017. The shortlist comprised: Alexander Devine Hospice for Children, The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and the Air Ambulance Service. Kathy asked if there were any questions and there were none. She then asked for a vote by a show of hands and stated she would not vote unless there was a tie when she would cast the deciding vote. The votes were: Alexander Devine (10), Royal Marsden (3) and Air Ambulance (9) and it was declared that Alexander Devine Hospice for Children would receive the £500 charitable donation. Kathy stated that all of the good causes submitted were worthy recipients. John wrote the £500 cheque and gave it to Kathy who will send it with an accompanying letter. Ted asked if it was possible to visit the site of the new hospice and a future visit for members of the society can be arranged.

Finance: John circulated an up to date summary of the society`s finances which stated a total credit balance of £8,540.02. With the £500 donation deducted this would now be £8,040.02. He stated the

society was in a healthy financial position. Frank reminded everyone that we are seeking a replacement for John as treasurer as he is retiring in April and any suggestions would be welcomed.

Mini Show: Kathy said that support for the mini show had been diminishing over the past few years and asked if there was an appetite amongst the members for it to continue. Naomi stated that the mini show was originally started to enable people to learn how to exhibit their entries for the main show. She then suggested there was no point in continuing with this show given the very low participation and interest last year. After discussion it was agreed that the mini show should be discontinued in its present form but change to a new format comprising of just two entry classes (Sweet Peas and Potato in a Bucket), a social evening and a planning meeting. Howard, Janet, John and Kathy volunteered to arrange this. To be held on Thursday 29th June.

Main Show Plans: The main show will be on Saturday August 19th 2017. Kathy explained that Frank is unable to be at the show this year due to a family commitment. Frank confirmed he would organise as much as possible prior to the show and read through a list of main tasks needed to stage the show and confirmed volunteers for each of them as follows:

TASK	NAME	TASK	NAME
CAR PARKING	ERIC, DAVE	COLLECT TROPHIES	SUE (Paul to give list of winners to Sue plus mini show winners)
TEAS	BARBARA -tbc	MOVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT	*KEN, KEITH, DAVID, HOWARD, JOHN, ERIC.
BOOK SCOUT HUT	FRANK	BOOK VILLAGE HALL	FRANK
BAR	GAVIN, SUE-tbc	BAR LICENCE	FRANK to complete for Keith being named person.
PUBLICITY	MAC	GATE MANAGEMENT	TED, DENISE
BOOK JUDGES – HORTICULTURE	KATHY	BOOK ICE CREAMS	SHEILA
BOOK JUDGES – HOME IND.	JULIE	BOOK HOT FOOD (Castle)	FRANK
BOOK BAND	FRANK	VENDORS	KEN
BOOK PHOTOGRAPHER	vacant	FIELD MANAGEMENT	KEN
BOOK AUCTIONEER	JULIE	RAFFLE	HEATHER (Penny available to assist)
PLANT AND FLOWER STALL	BETTY	SHOW ENTRIES, STATS.	PAUL, SUE

* As Frank will not be there he will try to get a replacement to fulfil his role plus additional helpers.

Additional actions:

Permission for field access: Kathy

Ambulance attendance: Ted

PA System: John

Order Tables: Frank

Wine Judge, Auctioneer, M/C: David Lochman (tbc)

Scarecrow Erector: Perhaps Bruce Spiller (tbc)

Discuss disruption to resident of house next to village hall: Ken

Arrange for transport and assistance with erection of Band Tent: Frank

Arrange availability of van: Frank

Main Show Schedule: Keith updated the meeting of progress with the 2017 schedule. Gate entry and class entry fees to be the same, timings on the day to be the same. Julie and Janet to decide if entry guidance needs updating on the website. Delivery points for entry forms to be Naomi plus AN Other (Sheila unable to do this year). Keith aiming for full draft to be available at next meeting for full delivery mid to end of June. Retain children`s schedule but format to change. Kathy and Janet to repeat visit to St Nicholas school to deliver children`s schedules. Keith said due to the sheer amount of time and effort involved in obtaining sponsorship, designing/approving adverts and collecting moneys he will be reducing or eliminating this part of the schedule. Costs of reduced schedule (12 pages without adverts from 20 last year) is £215 which is £100 less for a print run of 2,000. Cost of children`s schedule is £45. For the next meeting Keith will put forward alternative designs for the front cover. Keith suggested he was given a budget to cover the various costs associated with design, print and website hosting but Kathy satated, and it was agreed by all that there was no need for this as he was doing an excellent job and he was trusted to spend what was needed to support what he was delivering for the society. This was confirmed by the treasurer.

Date of AGM: The AGM will be on Tuesday April 25th starting at 7:30pm immediately followed by a General Meeting. Venue is The Castle Inn, Hurst.

AOB: Janet requested we purchase the latest RHS Horticultural Show Handbook at a cost of £8 as we do not have a recent copy. This was approved.

Janet also asked for suggestions for new items to add to the children`s class entries such as quick growing herbs. All suggestions to Janet or Julie.

Frank reminded members that John our treasurer is retiring in April and we need a volunteer to replace him, any suggestions please to him or Kathy.

Kathy closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their enthusiastic input to the meeting and their continued support for the society.